

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Figure 1. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Figure 1.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

REMARKS

Claims 15-28 are pending in the present application. Claims 15-23, 25 and 27-28 were amended in this response. Furthermore, the specification and drawings have been amended to correct minor informalities. Regarding FIG. 1, the reference "EF" used in modules "AFF" and "FD" has been changed to "EF1" and "EF2" respectively as shown in the Replacement Sheet. No new matter has been introduced as a result of the amendments. Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

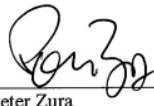
Claims 19-21 and 23-28 were rejected under 35 U.S.C §102(e) as being anticipated by *Van Court* (US Patent 5,917,552). Claims 15-18 are allowed. Claim 22 was indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Applicant respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the courtesy of discussing the present claims in the interviews conducted November 27 and 29, 2006. During the course of the detailed interview, the examiner indicated informalities in the claims and the specification, to which the Applicant presently responds via the present amendments.

Applicant has amended claim 19 to incorporate the allowed matter identified in claim 15 and has further amended the abovementioned claims to correct minor informalities. In light of the amendments, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102 is overcome and should be withdrawn. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If any additional fees are due in connection with this application as a whole, the Examiner is authorized to deduct such fees from deposit account no. 02-1818. If such a deduction is made, please indicate the attorney docket no. (0112740-321) on the account statement.

Respectfully submitted,
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